## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107767 ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:BBODINE APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTWINAM

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R 271949Z APR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY DOHA AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 06189 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANA JIDDA MUSCAT ABU DHABI TEHRAN KUWAIT APRIL 20.

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 06189

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PGOV YS

SUBJECT: FCO ON PDRY (SOUTH YEMEN)

REF: LONDON 5031

1. DURING VISIT OF NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS TO LONDON, FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WEIR AND HEAD OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPT, LUCAS, BRIEFED US APR 18 ON PDRY (SOUTH YEMEN) AS FOLLOWS: WEIR STATED THAT THE FCO REGARDS THE PDRY REGIME AS A SOVIET SATELLITE IN ALL BUT NAME. SALEM RUBAYI ALI APPEARS TO BE DISCREDITED, SINCE ABDUL FATTAH ISMAIL WENT TO THE REJECTION FRONT MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN ADDITION TO THE SOVIET BUILD-UP, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 600-700 CUBANS IN SOUTH YEMEN NOW. LUCAS DOUBTED THAT PDRY HAD SIGNED A "BASE AGREEMENT," BUT NOTED THAT THE REGIME HAS GRANTED SO MANY "FACILI-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIES" TO THE RUSSIANS THAT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. EVEN THE KUWAITIS AND THE UAE HAVE BEEN PERSUADED NOT TO GIVE FRESH AID TO THE SOUTH YEMENIS; THE KUWAITIS WILL COMPLET TRANSFERRING ONLY WHAT IS IN THE PIPELINE. WHEN THE PDRY'S ALI NASSER MUHAMMAD WENT AROUND THE GULF SEEKING AID, HE WAS TOLD NO MORE IS COMING. WEIR ALSO INFORMED THE U.S. OFFICERS THAT THE PDRY REGIME HAS JUST INFORMED

THE BRITISH THAT IT WISHES TO RECOVER THE EMPTY U.S. EMBASSY BUILDING IN ADEN.

2. WEIR SAID THAT THE PDRY REGIME HAD JUST SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING SOME BRITISH LABOR PARTY MPS TO GO OUT AND VISIT ADEN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PDRY REGIME WILL PRESENT THIS AS A GESTURE OF BRITISH POLITICAL INTEREST, BUT THAT IT REALLY IS NOT. FINALLY, HE NOTED SOME REPORT FROM A YARG SOURCE THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE GOING TO TRAIN A BIG PDRY FORCE OF SOME 20,000.

STREATOR UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, SATELLITES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS

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Disposition Event:
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To: DOHA MANAMA

Type: TE

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